Parcel Post, Instant Money Order Service, "Children Policy" in Post Life Insurance as well as in Rural Post Life Insurance to increase its revenue and to compete with the private players. A number of value additions like free pick-up track and trace, volume based discount, credit facility are offered in Speed Post Service. Another innovative method recently introduced by the Department is allowing postmen to sell postage stamps and stationery and to collect letters from customers during their delivery rounds.

(c) The Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra (PSSK) is an economical means for providing basic postal facilities in the rural areas where opening of a regular post office is not justified. The PSSK provides the facilities of sale of postage stamps and stationery and booking of registered articles.

One India Scheme

1344. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'One India Scheme' to be introduced by BSNL and MTNL from 1st March, 2006 is not beneficial to a subscriber who makes less than forty local calls a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of beneficiaries of One India Scheme, as on date, State-wise, urban and rural area-wise and category-wise;

(c) where steps will be taken to retain present rent and free calls; and

(d) the steps taken so that ordinary subscribers of rural areas are benefited by the above "One India Scheme" and "the death of distance"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. While theoretically there can be a section of consumers who may not get the benefit under One-India Scheme, the scheme is beneficial to most consumers considering the basket of usage of an average customer.

(b) It is too early to assess the number of beneficiaries of One India Scheme as the scheme has been launched *w.e.f.* 1st March, 2006.

(c) The present rent and free calls in General Plan as well as additional alternative packages are available to all customers including rural subscribers in addition to optional scheme of "One India".

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.